

Art Unit: 1641

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- I. In specification, page 1, line 7—after “U.S. Patent Application”, insert, ----No. 09/003,090,----.
- II. In specification, page 1, line 8—after “filed January 5, 1998,”, insert, ----now U.S Patent No. 6,830,731,----.
- III. In specification, page 1, line 9—after “U.S. Patent Application”, insert, ---- No. 09/003,066,----.
- IV. In specification, page 1, line 10—after “filed January 5, 1998,”, insert, ----now U.S Patent No. 6,074,616,----.

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2. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO fax center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 1641 Fax number is (571) 273-8300, which is able to receive transmissions 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa V. Cook whose telephone number is (571) 272-0816. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya, can be reached on (571) 272-0806.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Group TC 1600 whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Lisa V. Cook
Remsen
Art Unit 1641
(571) 272-0816

/Lisa V. Cook/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641